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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A map display apparatus and a map display method facilitate detection of the relationship between a destination position or a current position and the surrounding area, even when a detailed map is to be displayed on a narrow display area. A map display terminal displays a particular position, such as the destination position or the current position, on a map. The current position might be derived on the basis of position information from a Global Positioning System. An initial display can be a wide area map having smaller scale than a detailed map and centered destination position or the current position. More detailed maps centered at that position are displayed in stages.